The Harlingen Historical Preservation Society (HHPS) knew that the VMS was worthy but how worthy was another matter. The Texas Historical Foundation presents a series of annual awards to recognize achievements in historic preservation. These are presented each April and the annual Texas Historical Commission meetings. Because of its long interest in promoting all things about Valley history, the VMS was a logical candidate to be nominated for an award. The HHPS submitted a nomination under the category The Journalistic Achievement Award honoring excellence in print media. In describing the preservation achievement of the VMS the HHPS stated: In consistently bringing to the reading public in the metropolitan Harlingen area an appreciation of history and the role it has played in the community, the VMS has filled a communications niche which would otherwise remain a void. It has alerted all to the necessity of preserving the physical and social heritage of the region. It went on to explain why the VMS was worthy of the award. It submitted that: In its weekly Thursday Rio Living Section, the VMS has, since May 2003, published full-page history and preservation articles along with extended obituaries of interesting local individuals. In a timely manner it has also put on these pages (usually two) Rio Grande Valley and state history-related press releases, along with book reviews of history books. Its generous use of graphics in the articles contributes to the realism of the subject matter. The paper also welcomes and publishes reader feedback. In accomplishing what no other media in the area has done, the VMS has exhibited a keen recognition that preservation is an important aspect in stabilizing and creating a foundation upon which community pride can be based. Finally, in promoting the preservation of historic structures in the city, the VMS has worked toward establishing viable heritage tourism, thereby strengthening the city's economy. The result of the nomination was that the VMS was selected by the Texas Historical Foundation to receive the award as the top print media in the State of Texas. There is no question that the VMS is deserving of such an honor. In its annual Saludos Amigos edition the VMS has always included considerable historic information on the Valley. For many months the paper also ran the history articles of Pan Am professor, Joseph Chance. Periodically it has published a special supplement listing and pinpointing all the historical markers in Cameron County. In the state's sesquicentennial year of 1986 it ran a long series of articles about the Valley's pioneer families. In 2005 it published the hard cover book "Images of Harlingen and San Benito Area-The Early Years Through 1939". The book had over 250 photographs. Congratulations, staff of the VMS. Keep up the great work.